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Our reference: tCSC2021-autumn-covid

Dear CERN School of Computing (CSC) participant,

You are receiving this message because you registered for the upcoming Thematic CSC, "Scientific Software for Heterogeneous Architectures" (<https://indico.cern.ch/e/tCSC-autumn-2021>). Please read to the end, as this message contains important information.

It is a real pleasure for me to confirm that we are able to host the school on a residential basis in Split, Croatia.

The CSC team has been working hard in the past weeks to organize the school in the safest possible manner, under the ongoing and evolving pandemic circumstances. As such, I would like to draw your attention to the following key messages:

### **1. COVID certificate**

In order to comply with COVID-19 requirements applicable in Croatia, an EU Digital COVID Certificate or equivalent (<https://mup.gov.hr/uzg-covid/english/286212>) will be essential to attend the school in person. Your certificate must be valid for the entire duration of the school, and will be regularly checked by MEDILS staff.

### **2. COVID testing**

If the COVID certificate of a participant becomes invalid during the school (for example because a COVID-19 test taken before the participant's travel to Croatia expires ahead of the school's conclusion), that participant will be required to take subsequent tests and present their negative results. MEDILS will facilitate this by organizing on-site rapid antigen tests (valid 48 hours), performed by a specialized external company, on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday of the school, in order to provide test coverage for the whole duration of the school. These tests will also be available on a voluntary basis to all participants, including those with a valid EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate. The cost of the tests (20 EURO per test) will be covered by the school.

In addition, rapid auto-tests will be freely available to all participants, and everyone is strongly encouraged to test themselves at least twice during the school (e.g. on Monday and Thursday). The goal with these rapid auto-tests is to reassure participants and personnel, as well as to identify any infected persons as quickly as possible.

We cannot guarantee that these on-site antigen and rapid auto-tests will satisfy return travel requirements. Should you require PCR testing for any purpose, in particular for any return travel after the school concludes, then you will be responsible for arranging and paying the costs of such testing (including associated costs such as transport to and from the test site). At the time of writing, the cost of a PCR test in Croatia starts at around 60 EURO/test (<https://nzjz-split.hr/en/sars-cov-2-testing-in-split-dalmatia-county-croatia/>).

### 3. Sanitary measures

During the school, we will all be required to follow standard COVID-19 sanitary measures, including physical distancing, the wearing of masks at certain occasions, and regular hand washing. Specific details will depend on the national and local recommendations at the time, and will be communicated in due course at <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1055520/page/23214-covid-19-measures>. For the safety of all participants and personnel at the school, an individual participant's failure to comply with the required sanitary measures will result in their immediate expulsion from the site.

### 4. Quarantine / medical isolation

We cannot exclude the possibility that, even with all the above measures in place, one, a group, or all participants and personnel attending the school may be required to quarantine or isolate, even if they are vaccinated.

If allowed by the local epidemiological authorities, the affected person(s) can quarantine directly at the school accommodation (but only for the duration of the school – i.e. until Saturday October 16th morning). In that case, the cost of the accommodation and food for quarantining during the school is already covered by the participant's registration fee.

However, any other costs of self-isolation or quarantine outside of the school accommodation, and/or after the end of the school, will be under the sole logistical and financial responsibility of the individual participant(s) concerned, and cannot be covered or arranged by the school organizers or MEDILS.

### 5. Disclaimer

As you will certainly understand, CERN cannot predict the spread of the virus or the evolution of event or travel restrictions, airline polices or flight/public transport cancellations. Your participation in the school is at your own risk and, in particular, CERN is not responsible for any costs associated with early departure from or termination of the school, travel, quarantine, medical treatment or any other consequences resulting from being infected or a close contact during or in connection with participation in the school. Please ensure you have the necessary travel and medical insurance in place to cover your attendance.

I look forward to meeting you, and welcoming you to the Thematic CERN School of Computing autumn 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Sebastian Lopienski  
Director, CERN School of Computing